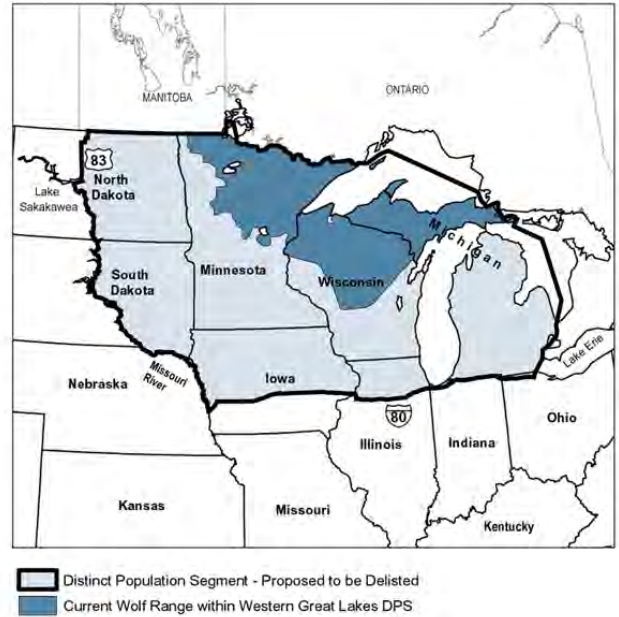




U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Gray Wolf Recovery: *Success in the Western Great Lakes*

Since the gray wolf was first listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1974, recovery programs have helped populations of this species rebound from the lows of the mid-20th Century. Today, wolf recovery has been achieved in the western Great Lakes area. On March 27, 2006, the U.S. Department of the Interior published a proposal to remove gray wolves in the Western Great Lakes Distinct Population Segment from the list of endangered and threatened species.



Recovery Success

The recovery criteria established in the federal recovery plan have been met and exceeded. The latest survey in Minnesota (2003-2004 data) estimated 3,020 wolves in the state. In Michigan and Wisconsin, the numbers are 405 and 465 respectively (2005-2006). Each state has developed a wolf management plan with the goal of ensuring future survival of the wolf population. In all three state plans, the state goal exceeds the federal goal for that state. Those plans were signed by the head of the state's Department of Natural Resources after input from wolf experts and extensive public involvement. The Service reviewed these plans and believes their implementation will maintain viable wolf populations in the Midwest.

What's Next?

A public comment period on the proposal ended June 26, 2006. During the comment period, four public information meetings and hearings were held in Minnesota, Michigan and Wisconsin. During that time, the Service conducted peer review of the proposal, receiving comments from 10 independent specialists on wolves and threats to wolves. We are now analyzing all comments and expect to make a final decision on the proposal in early 2007. A 5-year post-delisting monitoring plan is under development for the gray wolf in the Western Great Lakes DPS. At the end of the monitoring period, the Service will decide whether to relist, continue monitoring, or end monitoring.

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